

Message Text

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62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249550

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR

REF: (A) ROME 15125; (B) KHARTOUM 2446

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES VIEWS EXPRESSED REF B AND REQUESTS EMBASSIES KHARTOUM AND ROME TO TAKE FOLLOWING ACTIONS.

2. FOR KHARTOUM: ITALIAN EMBASSY SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT US EMBASSY IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT SEALED ENVELOPE POUCHED FROM ROME (REF A) AND WOULD APPRECIATE ITALIAN EMBASSY'S UNDERTAKING TO DELIVER IT TO ADDRESSEE, TAKLA GHEBRESELLASIE. EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN THIS REQUEST IN TERMS OF THIRD AND FOURTH SENTENCES PARA 2, REF B.

3. FOR KHARTOUM: FOR ESSENTIALLY THE SAME BASIC REASON,
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I.E., TO AVOID ANY COLOR OF USG INITIATIVE TOWARD OR IN-

VOLVEMENT WITH ELF/PLF GROUPS WHICH MAY NOT HAVE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER CAPTIVES, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO CONTACT LOCAL ELF/PLF REPS. CONCUR IN EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT WHAT IS NOW REQUIRED IS ACTION BY PLF/ELF TO CONTACT USG IN KHARTOUM OR ELSEWHERE TO PROPOSE DATE AND PLACE FOR MEETING WITH US REP, PER GREEN LIGHT USG HAS CONVEYED FOR

SUCH MEETING THROUGH GOI.

4. FOR KHARTOUM: EMBASSY'S ASSUMPTION PARA 5, REF B, IS CORRECT.

5. FOR ROME: DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY KHARTOUM'S CONCERNS PARA 1, REF B. EMBASSY SHOULD ACCORDINGLY RECALL TO GOI CAREFULLY DRAWN INSTRUCTIONS US REP WILL BE UNDER IN ANY MEETING WITH ELF/PLF, AND PARTICULARLY USG'S FIRM REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE OR BARGAIN WITH ABDUCTORS OF AMERICANS ABROAD (STATE 240695 AND ROME 14617). EMBASSY MIGHT NOTE THAT WHILE WE KNOW GOI UNDERSTANDS THIS, ELF/PLF SPOKESMEN APPEAR, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, TO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CONVEY IMPRESSION TO CAPTIVES AND OTHERS THAT USG IS PREPARED TO QUOTE NEGOTIATE UNQUOTE. IF ELF/PLF CAME ACTUALLY TO BELIEVE USG IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON THEIR DEMANDS, THAT MISUNDERSTANDING COULD SERIOUSLY COMPROMISE RELEASE EFFORTS AND JEOPARDIZE CAPTIVES. INGERSOLL

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